

Southern Nevada and its tireless efforts in providing veterans with the skills necessary to reintegrate into the local community. This organization's commitment to helping veterans, military servicemembers, and their families get back on their feet is admirable, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH DOBBINS

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Dr. Kenneth Dobbins on his retirement and to thank him for his many years of leadership and service to the field of higher education. For 24 years, including the last 16 years as president, Ken Dobbins has served Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. Ken considered his job as president the position of a lifetime, and his dedication and passion for the University and its students is unparalleled. It is my pleasure to honor him today.

Ken received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Akron in 1971. Upon graduation, Ken served as a commissioned officer and civilian executive in the U.S. Air Force for nearly 10 years and was awarded the 1978 Air Force Audit Agency Outstanding Civilian Auditor of the Year. Ken also received an M.B.A. from Old Dominion University in 1979 and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Kent State University in 1987.

Before his tenure with Southeast Missouri State, Ken held positions in higher education administration at Kent State. At Southeast Missouri State, Ken served as the University's vice president of finance and administration from 1991 to 1993 and executive vice president from 1993 until his appointment as president in 1999.

During Ken's presidency, the university reached significant milestones in enrollment and diversity, academic partnerships, programs, and construction. Ken's effective leadership shaped Southeast Missouri State University into the outstanding school it is today. As president, one of his greatest accomplishments was the significant increase in enrollment of students. In 1994, there were 7,500 students. Today there are over 12,000 students.

In addition, Ken oversaw more than \$400 million in new construction and building improvement projects, including the Seabaugh Polytechnic Building and the \$58 million River Campus. New academic programs, including the College of Science, Technology, and Agriculture and the Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts were established. Ken instituted a comprehensive review of all academic and nonacademic programs to minimize student fee increases in the face of extensive State appropriation reductions. He was also responsible for developing an innovative postprofessorial merit program, which provides base salary increases and professional development funds for faculty members.

As president, Ken held numerous leadership positions in higher education administration. He served a 2-year term as president of the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education, and served 3 years as president of the Ohio Valley Conference. He currently serves on the board of directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Outside his work in higher education, Ken serves on the Greater St. Louis Area Council for the Boy Scouts of America, and was elected by local council associates to serve on the National Council for the Boy Scouts of America. Ken was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor given to a Boy Scout volunteer by a council. Additionally, Ken has been elected to the St. Louis Regional Chamber board of directors and is a member of the Hawthorne Foundation.

Ken is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Jeanine, son Paul, daughter-in-law Stacey, and his two grandchildren. I know they will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him. Ken will continue to be involved in higher education during his retirement by serving as a consultant with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

It is my pleasure to honor Ken Dobbins today. He has touched the lives of many and immensely improved the quality of Southeast Missouri State University and the Cape Girardeau community. His dedication to higher education and the State of Missouri has been invaluable.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Dr. Kenneth Dobbins.●

103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 103rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. What started out as a group of 18 girls in Georgia organized by Juliette Low has grown into an organization of more than 3.2 million girls and women and more than 59 million alumnae, including myself. As a former Girl Scout, I know firsthand how important the Girl Scouts are for learning about leadership, service, and personal development.

When the Girl Scouts started, women couldn't vote, women couldn't have property in their name, and in some States women couldn't go to college. The founding of the Girl Scouts started a revolutionary movement to empower girls. Now, Girl Scouts is working to bring gender balance to leadership roles, whether it is creating jobs in the private sector or representing constituents in public office. I believe in that mission, and I know it can be achieved.

What I love about the Girl Scouts is that it is always reinventing itself and looking to the future. Whether it is new uniforms or new badges, the Girl Scouts are engaging in a new genera-

tion of leadership. Their core programs focused on environmental stewardship, healthy living, financial literacy, and global citizenship help girls develop a solid and well-rounded foundation in leadership. Their award-winning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—STEM—Program helps girls build strong, hands-on foundations to become future leaders and meet the growing need for skilled science and technology professionals in the United States. And last year, the Girl Scouts joined the STEM mentoring initiative, Million Women Mentors, a national initiative to increase interest for girls and women to pursue STEM career paths. This program would help close the gender gap in the field and gives girls the confidence and the ability to believe that they too can be those female scientists, engineers, and doctors who are serving as mentors for the program.

I have taken the lessons I learned from the Girl Scouts with me to the U.S. Senate every day and in every way. These lessons include: Let's help people at all times. Let's be honest and fair. Let's be friendly and helpful. Let's be considerate and caring, courageous and strong and responsible. Let's respect ourselves and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout whether she is here or around the world. For all of these reasons and more, I am honored to recognize the 103rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America.●

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to honor Girl Scouts of the USA. As the proud father of two Girl Scouts, I join them as they celebrate Girl Scout Day. On this day in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the first Girl Scout troop with just 18 girls in Savannah, GA. Over 100 years later, Girl Scouts serves 2 million girls and has 59 million alumnae across the United States.

Juliette Gordon Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Gordon sought to bring girls out of isolated home environments and into community service in order to become well rounded members of society. By building courage, confidence, and character, Girl Scouts raised awareness on important issues. They became leaders and made their way into American hearts.

Girl Scouts today participate in numerous activities that foster and strengthen their leadership abilities, financial literacy, outdoor and environmental awareness, and teach them the value of service. They learn new skills that help them develop their full individual potential, and take action to improve the world around them. Girls who earn the Gold Award, the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn,

take extraordinary steps to effect positive change and make a sustainable impact in their communities and beyond.

Today's Girl Scouts are tomorrow's leaders. Former Girl Scouts are at the top of their fields in science, media, medicine, business, and politics. With one-half of the women in the 114th Congress being former Girl Scouts, it is evident that Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character.

On this Girl Scout Day, I wish to applaud the work of Girl Scout councils throughout Michigan and across our country. Their commitment to diversity and service, tied with their dedication, makes them true leaders of society.●

TRIBUTE TO PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, a beloved American icon recently celebrated her 90th birthday. For more than one-half century, Phyllis Schlafly has been a leading voice in defense of our Constitution, our values, and our way of life. Fearlessly, tirelessly, Phyllis has championed the American family and American values. As a speaker, author, activist, and radio commentator, Phyllis has inspired and mobilized generations of conservatives.

Her 1964 book, "A Choice Not an Echo," took direct aim at the establishment class and helped pave the way for Goldwater and Reagan. Her advocacy presaged many of the political challenges we face today in ensuring that the voiceless have a voice and that the everyday worker, mother, father, and citizen is not drowned out by special interests. As one profile noted, Phyllis "continues comforting the afflicted conservative, afflicting the comfortable Republican."

I remember well reading "A Choice Not an Echo" while in high school and her arguments helped shape my political philosophy as it shaped the philosophy of many others. I also remember attending her speech at the University of Alabama dealing with the national defense issues she wrote about while I was in law school. Dynamic, smart, beautiful, and articulate, she played an important role in establishing a sound conservative philosophy.

An unrelenting critic of big government, Phyllis has spoken out time and again on the need for the family—not the bureaucracy—to form the center of American life. She has explained that we cannot strengthen our financial system without also strengthening our families and our communities. She knows that no nation can be better than the people who make it up and that families, communities, and churches are vital to developing good people.

The values Phyllis embodies are not merely traditional but enduring—just as she is. Enduring values are a national compass, a guide for all times—always pointing true north in even the stormiest weather.

Congratulations to Phyllis on her remarkable 90th year and her even more remarkable life.●

RECOGNIZING THE LEARNING TRAIN

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, American small businesses across the country possess the ability to recognize and fill unique service gaps in their local towns and cities. This is especially important when these small businesses work with the children in our communities. Such is the case with this week's Small Business of the Week, The Learning Train, located in Lafayette, LA.

Keri and Matt Hebert opened The Learning Train as a way to promote the physical, emotional, educational, and social development of children aged 6 months to 4 years old through a variety of weekly classes and camps. A mother of two, Mrs. Hebert designed The Learning Train to offer small group classes that promote learning and bonding between parents and their children. A typical 45-minute session at the center provides children and their parents with a safe, fun space to hone age-appropriate developmental skills through enjoyable playtime with peers. The center's structured learning activities aid in developing crucial skills, including symbolic thinking, active listening, problem solving, and knowledge retention.

In addition to the sharpening of technical skills, children are afforded quality time strengthening and developing healthy social bonds, as well. Having spent thirteen years as an educator, Mrs. Hebert noticed a growing need for a safe, fun environment for young children to be nurtured. She maintains that a child's time spent playing with their guardian reinforces social development and builds trust between the two. The Learning Center's diverse classes provide ample space, opportunity, and variety to reinforce bonds between a child's parents as well as with their peers. Since its establishment in 2013, the Learning Train also regularly partners with local organizations to give back to their community, including participating in food drives.

I am honored to recognize a business that provides the high quality care and attention that our future generations deserve. Congratulations again to The Learning Train for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I thank them for the important work they do for the families and children in the Lafayette region.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1213. An act to make administrative and technical corrections to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COATS, and Mr. COONS):

S. 723. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to provide guidance on utility energy service contracts used by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 724. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing candy-flavored controlled substances to minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 725. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COATS:

S. 726. A bill to establish the prudential regulator of community and independent depository institutions as the conduit and arbiter of all Federal financial oversight, examination, and reporting; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 727. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 728. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 729. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 730. A bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 731. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits and ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 732. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.